443 where they could sit and deal in their goods. The anxiety of Panchayats to auction their market receipts to the highest bidder would never go further enough to make them realise their concomittant responsibilities for this fruitful source of income and those who contributed to it. The sheds were provided for in Attili and Akividu in West Godavari, Razole in East Godavari, and Dharmavaram in Anantapur. These were only rare exceptions rather than the rule in each and every district. If that was the situation in major Panchayats, the minor Panchayats could not naturally do more.

764 **Burning and Burial Grounds—Construction and Maintenance :** Practically very few Panchayats seemed to be doing anything towards this obligation. Except in a few places like, Tanuku and Bhimavaram in West Godavari, and Amalapuram in East Godavari, most of the other Panchayats did not reveal recurrent attention or expenditure on this item which was one of their obligatory duties.

While informal enquiries made in Panchayats visited, revealed an abiding interest in this matter, there was no regular expenditure incurred on this item. None of the Panchayats usually provided pendals or some erections to give shade to those who had to go there. Neither the Panchayats nor their supervisory staff ever seemed to have insisted on the careful observance of this obligation.

365 **Night Lighting in Streets :** Provision of lights for the convenience of the passers-by in the streets in villages was done in most of the Panchayats. They were either kerosene or petromax, gas or electric lights. Where there was no electricity, the number of lights compared to pre-war times had been less. Except in some places where either the Panchayat was superseded or the Panchayat was in no way able to meet this obligation, the lighting facilities were always provided either it was a 1st, 2nd or 3rd grade Panchayat. The situation in the minor Panchayats was a bit different and most of them were not able to provide this facility, not so much because they could not afford it, but beacuse there was no effective power to enforce this obligation.

The following table gives the numbet of lights now used and existed prior to the rationing of kerosene oil.

365

Name of the Village	Pre-war		Post-war		Electric Lights
	Kerosene Oil Lights	Petro-max Lights	Kerosene Oil Lights	Petro-max Lights	
1st Grade:					
Tuni	280	16	160	...	...
Narsapur	182	...	82	17	...
Guntakal	...	...	170	12	...
Bhimavaram	86	...	50	13	...
2nd Grade:					
Mandapeta	...	...	81	...	46
Ramchandrapuram	...	...	...	...	60
Nuzvid	...	...	...	...	186
Jaggayapeta	...	...	46	6	...
3rd Grade:					
Dharmavaram	...	...	117	6	...
Kadiri	...	...	101	12	...
Razole	...	...	60	9	...
Akividu	87	...	40	12	...
Yellamanchili	...	...	...	...	...
Gooty	...	...	120	13	...
Dhone	...	...	56	...	...
Bukkapatnam	...	...	31	8	...
Minor Panchayats:					
Kapileswarapuram	20	...	...	...	...
Kothapeta	...	...	52	7	...
Vasadi	...	...	10	...	...
Gorantala	...	...	24	4	...
Kandavilli	...	...	15	...	...
Veldurti	...	...	10	...	...

An examination of the resources of the Panchayats in most instances revealed that they were capable of improving upon the existing number of lights they were providing and the sooner they were made to do this the better.

Again, a word about the way in which this obligation was met with was essential. Some Panchayats enstrusted the work of street-lighting to contractors after calling tenders and many times they made a fiasco of this obligation by never providing proper lighting facilities to the village streets, the lights hardly burned or very often

366 they were off soon after they were lit. Sometimes there was a partial contract by which the kerosene oil lights were provided by Panchayats while the petromax lights were provided by the contractor or vice versa, and the same evils were revealed to be pregnant in this practice too.

217 **Provision of Libraries and Newspapers**: Libraries and reading rooms were provided by Panchayats in a large number of places. Though most of the 1st grade Panchayats had no such provision except in Tuni, 2nd and 3rd grade Panchayats showed greater interest in the matter. The inquiry showed that almost all the 2nd and 3rd grade Panchayats and a large number of minor Panchayats too were providing this facility to the public. The charges varied from Re. 0-4-0 to Re. 1 depending on the number of books and periodicals in the library.

Very few Panchayats like Amalapuram had big libraries with a separate manager-clerk and office-boys while the libraries in other Panchayats were managed either by a separate clerk or by the executive of the Panchayat itself. In a few places, individual subscriptions were also collected at the rate of as. 4 and as. 8 according to the nature of facilities given to the subscribers.

The library grants by the Government were few and far between and most of the libraries were not receiving them.

543 **Management of Fairs and Festivals**: Management of fairs and festivals and provision of amenities for the pilgrims — erecting of barracks, stalls, urinals and sheds and other public health amenities—belonged to the domain of Panchayats whenever important celebrations were held within their confines. The money that was to be spent on conveniences was either collected by way of subscriptions or obtained as a grant from the Government or spent from the funds of the Panchayat.

Hardly any of the 1st grade Panchayats had this obligation, while a few in the 2nd and 3rd grades and some of the minor Panchayats seemed to be undertaking this work. Ramchandrapuram, and Tanuku in East Godavari and Bhimavaram in the West Godavari discharged this obligation. In Anantapur, Kadiri Panchayat had to manage every year the Car-festival of Narsinhaswamy. An illustration of a typical expenditure as in Kadiri would indicate the nature of expenditure incurred by Panchayats on such occasions :

auctioned, while Government wanted them to be departmentally managed. 231

Parks for the public recreation were constructed only in a few Panchayats while the majority were indifferent. 967

Similarly market sites where fees were collected on sale of vegetables, grains or animals were mostly without stalls or sheds to shelter the sellers and buyers and the goods offered for sale. 443

Burning and burial grounds were not properly maintained either in the major or minor Panchayats. 764

Street lighting undertaken only by a few major Panchayats was left mostly to contractors who would light the streets hardly for a few hours. Panchayats did not undertake this task directly as they thought it was difficult to control and check the pilfering of kerosene oil, lights, wicks, burners, chimneys, etc. The remedy for that would be to get standardised and stamped goods for the use of Panchayats from Government Stores and to punish offenders mercilessly than to leave this function to the mercy of the contractors who would only be keen to charge the highest rates than giving proper service. 365

Provision of libraries and newspapers was undertaken only by very few Panchayats either due to lack of funds or sufficient interest. 217

Management of fairs and festivals was done by a few minor or major Panchayats, but, without exploiting their privileged position by means of a pilgrim tax or a tax on the vendors. 543

Optional functions like plantation of trees, provision of cart and bus stands, radio sets for listeners, help in epidemics, provision of dispensaries, etc. were done only by very few Panchayats. 623

The attendance of the members at the meetings of Panchayats was so irregular that there was often no quorum. Sometimes the Panchayats held no meetings at all for a long time or the members absented themslves continuously without any action being taken against them.

Panchayats were superseded and special officers were appointed to administer them for a year or two, when Panchayats could not work properly either due to local factions or opposition to taxation or any other undesirable features. Fresh Panchayat was ushered in only after the prevailing irregularities were removed and when the prospects of its smooth working were tolerably certain. 687 623